

How "Savage" African Chiefs Really Look

"SUPERIOR races" are rapidly passing away, not because of any special decline among them, but because the formerly "inferior nations" are rapidly advancing out of their condition of inferiority. It is becoming more and more recognized by world observers that civilization is no longer exclusively in the hands of the white man, but has passed to the custody of the yellow, brown and black man. Asia and Africa, the cradles of civilization, are destined once again to become the centers of civilization, and it is not at all impossible—many indeed consider it extremely probable—that London and New York may one day be as distant from the center of world interest as they were in Caesar's time.

The photograph here-with printed throws a sidelight on this question. The dark-skinned gentlemen in the picture are African chiefs from Basutoland. It will be a trifle difficult of comprehension by those whose ideas about Africa have been formed by the geography books of their school days and a reading of Henry M. Stanley's travels. The world has thought of Africa as a continent of raving savagery, whereas the fact always has been that Africa has been freer of the distressful vices than most continents. The African may never have been much on clothes, but everyone who knows him testifies to his sense of honor, his natural manliness, and the agreeableness of his companionship. Few men who have worked in Africa are content thereafter to settle down in Europe and America—the shrewdness and double-dealing of the white man, the lack of faith in so-called "civilized" life, get on their nerves; they want to get back where men get on together without subterfuge. And it is the repeated testimony of all investigators that the ruin of Africa, at least morally, is the natives' contact with the white man and his vices.

A study of the faces of the Basuto chiefs shown in the picture will suffice to bear out the assertion of anthropologists that the native African is really a high



These chiefs from the African continent are scrutinizing "civilization."

type. These chiefs show character, thoughtfulness and unmistakable reserve power. Time was, perhaps, when they went abroad in their domains clothed in loin-cloths or in aprons of leaves, and they may even do so yet when they are at home, but most men who have tried both the costume of the African interior and that of Europe are of the opinion that, for comfort and ease, for cleanliness and health, the African style is preferable. Yet, as we are accustomed to judge men by their clothes—which is distinctly a "civilized" practice, and one that would be disdained by the "savage"—it is fortunate that the chiefs appear before us in the picture in the curious costumes of the white man, in order that we may judge them without disconcerting appearances.

Torday, the most recent English traveler to have recorded his impressions of Africa, speaks of the African natives as "unspoiled by alcohol, European morals, and the love of gain either by fair means or fraud." He says that he met no tribe that was not "naturally good-tempered, and, in most cases, hos-

pitable and trustful." The African has perfected a system of long-distance wireless signalling, which, like that of India, is speedier than the telegraph and completely baffles the white man. A white man, lost in the African jungle, was fed regularly by natives who appeared at intervals from no one knew where upon the signal of a distant chieftain that "a white man is lost in the jungle and needs food." Absolute honor of one's given word is one of the African's characteristics. The lie as a device of evasion or deception for ulterior purposes is as yet unknown to him. A large part of Africa is Christianized; the Basuto language was reduced to writing by missionaries; and church attendance in the jungle and in African villages makes the United States look like a heathen country. Indeed, it is seriously said by missionaries both in Korea and Africa that in less than a century, these now "heathen" lands will be sending missionaries to America—

not because America will have become uncivilized, but will have lost the religion that lightened Africa.

The Africans, says Torday, are capable of great friendship and affection. When he came away great crowds followed him for miles to take their farewells.

In former times when civilization centered around the Mediterranean, the northern coast of Africa was the scene of a flourishing and cultivated life. Egypt, Carthage, Ophir are place names of antiquity and renown. The Christian church once flourished there in power, and the names of Tertullian, Cyprian who was bishop of Carthage, and St. Augustine, who was bishop of Hippo, are some of the deathless names that remain. The Germanic invasion of the African provinces changed the history of the world for worse, and the Arabs with their Mohammedanism made conquest of what otherwise promised to be the gate of a new civilization.

Modern enterprise is giving evidence of new interest in Africa, especially the hitherto neglected parts.

Notables Arrive at "The Mother of Parliaments"



ARTHUR HENDERSON—London

WHEN Parliament opens it brings together a body of men which is truly representative of British public opinion in all its aspects. In some quarters there is an objection to the use of the term "public opinion" with reference to the British public because

it is said, there is no such thing in Great Britain. There are any number of group opinions, but no public opinion. However much truth there may have been in this statement previous to the war, it is not wholly true now. Public opinion is developing and seems to be massing itself solidly behind any government capable of establishing law and order and holds the balance between the forces which are now in conflict in that part of the world. Ordinarily the British public would split into several sections upon the subject of a general strike, but it was clearly demonstrated at the recent railway strike that the British public are on the side of public safety first, with other matters made subordinate.

Yet it may be said that, owing to the British system which does not require a candidate to be a resident part of the constituency which he represents, the British Parliament usually gets out of more representatives of every important phase of public opinion. If a liberal constituency cannot find any competent man within its own borders to represent its liberalism, it goes elsewhere in the country to a liberal and asks him to stand for election. This makes it less difficult to make up a "bloc" as in the United States where, too frequently, the candidates of opposing parties really represent the same interests as against the people.

The bareheaded gentleman crossing the square is Arthur Henderson, arriving at the House of Parliament. Mr. Henderson is one of the big figures in the British Labor party, a party which is very different from what the same name would signify in America. It is the party of all producing workers, whether they work with their hands or their brain. Its purpose is to include, and it pretty nearly does so, all the workers of the nation. It is the active workers' party, whether



Sir Eric Geddes arrives with his fedora and his smile.

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they be lawyers and physicians, or farmers and mechanics. Mr. Henderson is a sociologist and economist of admirable gifts which he has used in a most exemplary way for the betterment of general social conditions in his country.

Arriving in the auto are Sir Eric Geddes and Sir Robert Horne. Geddes is of the Ministry of Transport and represented the government's side of the recent railway strike. He is the full-faced party wearing an imperturbable smile and a soft felt hat. He is cordially hated by the railway workers for his part against them, but he proved a very efficient servant of the public at large, and his method of breaking the railway strike by the wholesale mobilization of motor transport was a master stroke. Evidently the strikers had not dreamed of such a counterstroke when they suddenly stopped work at midnight. But the war had taught England many makeshifts. Distances are not so great there but that every center of population could be saved from severe distress by motor transport. In the duel between locomotive and motor, motor won.